

## PRESS RELEASE

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# Stuart Skelton's 2017-18 Season

### Highlights include:

- **Stuart Skelton makes his debut at Teatro alla Scala's performing Florestan in a production of Beethoven's *Fidelio***
- **Stuart Skelton gives performances of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* in Europe and America**
- **Sings the title role in a semi-staged production of Verdi's *Otello* with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and Edward Gardner**
- **Reunites with BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra for a performance of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* conducted by Sakari Oramo**

Stuart Skelton is one of the finest heldentenors on the stage today, critically acclaimed for his outstanding musicianship, tonal beauty, and intensely dramatic portrayals. His repertoire encompasses many of opera's most challenging roles, from Wagner's Parsifal, Tristan, Lohengrin, Erik, and Siegmund, to Strauss's Kaiser, Beethoven's Florestan, Saint-Saëns' Samson, Dvořák's Dimitrij, and Britten's Peter Grimes. Last year Skelton made his role debut as Tristan in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* with Sir Simon Rattle at the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and Berlin Philharmoniker and opened the 2016-17 season in the same production at The Metropolitan Opera, New York. Skelton is also in demand on concert stages around the world and this continues in the 2017-18 season with a particular focus on Mahler with numerous performances of *Das Lied von der Erde*, 'Song of the Earth,' a favourite of Skelton's.

### Opera highlights

Skelton makes his debut at Teatro alla Scala performing the role of Florestan in a production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, opening on **18 June** at La Scala. The production is conducted by **Myung-Whun Chung** with staging by **Deborah Warner** and sets and costumes by **Chloé Obolensky**. Skelton is joined by **Simone Schneider** as Leonore alongside the **Teatro alla Scala Chorus and Orchestra**.

In December, Skelton reprises his role as Otello in a semi-staged version of the eponymous opera by Verdi with the **Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra** and Chief Conductor **Edward Gardner** at Grieghallen. The performances, on **11, 13 & 15 December**, are directed by **Peter Mumford** with **Lester Lynch** as Iago and **Latoria Moore** as Desdemona.

### Concert highlights

On **18 & 19 November** Skelton joins the **St Louis Symphony** and Music Director **David Robertson** for performances of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at the Powell Symphony Hall. Beethoven composed this piece around the same time as his Ninth Symphony, and the two works are considered closely related in spirit. Other soloists include soprano **Susanna Phillips**.

Skelton's European performances of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* this season take place **12, 14 & 15 January** with the **Düsseldorfer Symphoniker**, conductor **Adam Fischer** and mezzosoprano **Anna Larsson**. Later this month, Skelton performs Mahler's work alongside the **Bayerischer Rundfunk** with **Sir Simon Rattle** and soloist **Magdalena Kožená** on **25 & 26 January**. Later in the season, Skelton gives performances of Mahler's extraordinary song cycle in America including concerts on **21 & 22**

**April** alongside the **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra** and **Asher Fisch** at The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Skelton also performs alongside the **London Symphony Orchestra** and Music Director **Sir Simon Rattle** on **6 May** at the Lincoln Center.

On **20 February**, Skelton gives a recital at his alma mater **Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music** with a programme featuring music by Korngold, Turina, Kaldalons and Grainger. Following this Skelton gives two masterclasses at the college on **21 & 22 February**.

Skelton performs the title role in Wagner's *Parsifal* on **6 & 8 April** alongside the **Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra** in Berlin. An opera in three acts, *Parsifal* is loosely based on a 13<sup>th</sup>-century epic poem about an Arthurian knight's quest for the Holy Gail. The concert performances are conducted by Rattle with **Nina Stemme** as Kundry, **Franz-Josef Selig** as Gurnemanz, **Evgeny Nikitin** as Klingsor, **Gerald Finley** as Amfortas and the **Rundfunkchor Berlin** directed by **Simon Halsey**.

This season Skelton gives four performances of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, a work for voices and orchestra in two parts set to text from the poem by John Henry Newman. Skelton recorded Elgar's masterpiece in 2014 with the **BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra** (BBC SO) and **Sir Andrew Davis**, and the recording received critical acclaim winning a Gramophone Choral Award in 2015. On **8, 9 & 10 March** Skelton performs the piece alongside the **Melbourne Symphony Orchestra** and Davis with soloists **Catherine Win-Rogers** and **Nathan Berg**. On **16 May**, Skelton reunites with the BBC SO for a performance of Elgar's masterpiece at the Barbican. For this concert, Skelton is joined by mezzo-soprano **Alice Coote** and bass **Alan Ewing**, conducted by **Sakari Oramo**.

Skelton performs the tenor role in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with **Dallas Symphony Orchestra** (DSO) and Music Director **Jaap van Zweden** at the Meyerson Symphony Centre on **24-26 May**. Skelton is joined by soprano **Lise Lindstrom**, baritone **Matthias Goerne** and mezzo-soprano and DSO Artist-in-Residence **Michelle DeYoung**. The soloists are joined by the **Dallas Symphony Chorus** directed by **Joshua Habermann**. The concert also features the **world premiere** of Jonathan Leshnoff's *Violin Concerto No. 2*, performed by **Alexander Kerr**.

On **16 & 19 August** Skelton returns to Australia for a performance of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* alongside the **West Australian Symphony Orchestra** (WASO), conductor **Asher Fisch** and Dutch soprano **Eva-Maria Westbroek** in the role of Isolde. This performance is part of the *WASO & Wagner* series and forms the centrepiece of WASO's 90th anniversary celebrations in 2018.

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#### **Listings**

##### **Beethoven's Missa Solemnis**

Tenor

St Louis Symphony/David Robertson

Powell Symphony Hall, St Louis

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 November 2017

##### **Verdi's Otello**

Otello

Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra/Edward

Gardner

Grieghallen, Bergen

Monday 11, Wednesday 13 & Friday 15

December

##### **Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde**

Tenor

##### **Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde**

Tenor

Düsseldorfer Symphoniker/Adam Fischer  
Friday 12, Sunday 14 & Monday 15 January  
2018

**Recital and Masterclass**

Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music  
Tuesday 20 February (Recital)  
Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 February  
(Masterclasses)

**Wagner's Parsifal**

Parsifal  
Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra/Simon Rattle  
Berliner Philharmoniker, Berlin  
Friday 6 & Sunday 8 April 2018

**Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde**

Tenor  
London Symphony Orchestra/Simon Rattle  
Lincoln Center, New York  
Sunday 6 May 2018

**Beethoven's Symphony No. 9**

Tenor  
Dallas Symphony Orchestra/Jaap van Sweden  
Meyerson Symphony Centre, Dallas  
Thursday 24– Saturday 26 May

**Wagner's Tristan und Isolde**

Tristan  
West Australian Symphony Orchestra/Asher  
Fisch  
Thursday 16 & Sunday 19 August

Bayerischer Rundfunk/Sir Simon Rattle  
Thursday 25 & Friday 26 January 2018

**Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius**

Tenor  
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra/Andrew Davis  
Thursday 8 & Saturday 10 March, Hammer Hall  
Friday 9 March, Costa Hall

**Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde**

Tenor  
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra/Asher Fisch  
Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 April 2018  
The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts,  
Milwaukee

**Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius**

Tenor  
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Sakari Oramo  
Barbican, London  
Wednesday 16 May 2018

**Beethoven's Fidelio**

Florestan  
Teatro alla Scala Chorus and Orchestra/ Myung-  
Whun Chung  
La Scala, Milan  
Monday 18, Thursday 21, Monday 25 &  
Thursday 28 June and Monday 2, Thursday 5 &  
Saturday 7 July